

THE GRID

**P.O. Box 709
(104 Dewitt Ave., East)
Mattoon, Illinois 61938**

Phone: 217/235-0341
or **Toll-Free:**
1-888-661-CMEC (2632)

Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

Chairman

Kent Metzger.....Gays

Vice Chairman

Bill VoylesSullivan

Secretary

Andrew FearnCharleston

Treasurer

Thomas Sherman ...Humboldt

Directors

Jeffery HudsonCharleston

Mike Love..... Mattoon

Colt Roderick Trilla

President/CEO

Amy Borntreger

**To Report an Outage
call #888-661-2632**

**Send your current email
to info@cmec.coop
for a chance to win a
\$25 bill credit**

Meet Your Board of Directors

Our board is democratically elected by you, our members, and these positions hold great importance in our cooperative and our communities. District 3 is up for election this year. Watch for upcoming details on important dates for nominations.



Bill Voyles
District 1



Mike Love
District 2



Kent Metzger
District 3



Colt Roderick
District 4



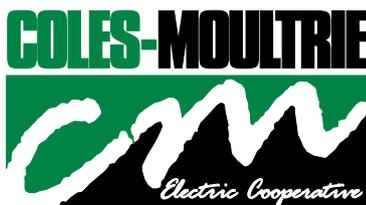
Andrew Fearn
District 5



Tom Sherman
District 6



Jeffery Hudson
District 7



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Scholarship Deadline

Applications for CMEC 2021 Scholarships are due in our office no later than April 30, 2021. Check out our website, cmec.coop, or email info@cmec.coop for details.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source:
www.energy.gov



2020 Co-op Month Winners

We were unable to host or attend events during National Co-op Month and decided to celebrate by giving back to our members in the form of Mattoon Chamber Buck\$ and Energy Credits.

\$250 Energy Credit Winners

Michael Currey
Brad Homann
Darrell Nees
David Waddell

\$50 Mattoon Chamber Buck\$ Winners

Scott Bierman
Adam Due
David Haworth
Troy Lane
Malia Smith

Capital Credits Update

Our cooperative mailed 2,889 checks totaling \$504,062.74 on December 9th, 2020 retiring Capital Credits for the year 1983. Contact us for details or questions: info@cmec.coop or (217)235-0341.



Find Your Name and Win \$25

Find your name hidden inside this issue of The Grid and receive a **\$25 bill credit**. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.

Member Advisory Committee

Would you like to serve on our MAC (Member Advisory Committee)? Our goal is to have at least one member from each district and three representing business or commercial members. The purpose of this committee is to develop relationships in our communities, provide feedback and increase communications between our cooperative and members. We encourage interested members to contact us at 217-235-0341 or email info@cmec.coop.

Planned Outage Notifications

CMEC will call members when we have planned outages in your area. Members will be notified by telephone using the "Home Number" listed on your account. Please verify this number is correct by logging into SmartHub, calling our office at 217-235-0341, or looking at the bottom left corner of your monthly electric bill. This helps us serve you better.

Mother Nature's Wrath Can Mean Service Disruptions

Although we work hard to maintain our equipment, monitor power delivery 24/7, and do all we can to keep the lights on, there are circumstances beyond our control that can interfere with power delivery. Winter weather is one example. Winter storms can impact the distribution of electricity due to ice, heavy winds, sleet, and other extreme conditions.

Regardless of the reason, know that when the lights go out, even during extreme weather, we are doing all we can to safely and efficiently restore power.

Along with causing outages, wintery conditions can cause hiccups with power delivery that include blinking lights, or ebbs and flows in the amount of power that comes into your home. Although blinking lights can be a symptom of other problems such as loose wiring connections or overloaded circuits, they can also be caused by extreme weather.

Ice/freezing rain

Ice accumulation on power lines makes them heavy. Half an inch of ice can add as much as 500 pounds to a power line. This added weight can impact power distribution and even bring down a power line. Ice that forms on power lines also increases its surface area, which means gusts of wind have more to catch. The weight of ice on tree limbs can cause them to fall on power lines as well.

Wind

Wind can cause tree branches to brush power lines, which can result in blinking or flickering lights. Therefore, it is important for us to keep trees cleared around power lines and poles. In addition, heavy winds can cause lines to move and sway. If they gain enough

momentum, they can gallop or jump. This can cause disruptions in service since the motion can cause lines to break or contact each other.

Melting ice

Melting ice can be heavy, putting extra strain on power lines and

power pole or pad-mounted transformer, causing an outage or other problems.

Blizzards

Heavy snowfall, icy roads or reduced visibility can make it difficult for our crews to get out and fix problems. We do all we can



causing the lines to touch or rest on one another. Because of this, melting ice can cause outages even though the temperature is rising. Depending on conditions, melting ice can cause as many or more problems than the ice itself.

Tree branches

In any weather, tree-related issues cause the most power outages in many service areas. Branches, limbs or even tree trunks can fall into power lines and cause problems. Add wind, freezing rain or ice to the mix for an increased potential for problems.

Icy roads

Vehicles sliding on ice or colliding with one another can strike a

to get out there to address service issues as soon as possible.

Be sure to have a storm preparedness kit ready before a storm strikes to help get you and your family through a power outage. Items to gather include bottled water, non-perishable food, blankets, warm clothing, hand sanitizer, first aid kit/medicine, flashlight, radio, back-up phone chargers, extra batteries, and toiletries.

To learn more about preparing for storms and electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.



LOCAL & LOCAL

Places & Faces



Mattoon YMCA

221 N 16th Str, Mattoon • 217-234-9494

Our community is blessed to have “the Y” where you can meet friends or make new ones while weight training, joining an exercise class and working out anywhere, anytime online. The Y was founded in Mattoon in 1879 by Summer Villars and they have adapted to members’ needs with their Virtual Launch and enhanced Youth Programs. Join today and make the Y a part of healthy living.

Morgan’s Meat Market

1401 DeWitt Ave, Mattoon • 217-234-4949

Morgan’s has been in our community for over 40 years and current owners, Mike and Barb Love, renovated the store in 2020. **Kurt Salmon** It is more than a meat market and has something for everyone with over 800 products. Stay up to date by watching their wonderful Friday live streams on Facebook! Stop by and check out flavored bacon, scrumptious cheese, or try their signature item, the famous 8-ounce Fluffy Burger.



Plush Boutique

513 7th Str, Charleston • 217-348-6349

This cozy boutique filled with clothes, purses, jewelry and shoes was opened in 2016 by owner Courtney Conlin on the east side of the square. They launched a website, shopwithplush.com, added an app, Shop Plush, then purchased a Mobile Boutique. Once you shop with them, either in person or virtually, you will certainly become a “regular” where you are treated special every time.

**We are helping support and kick-start small business comeback in our communities.
Email info@cmec.coop if you have a business, product or service you provide.**

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: www.cmec.coop